

REMARKS

This pre-examination amendment is offered to cure certain minor informalities by setting forth a description in idiomatic English to more properly explain the invention. It is submitted that none of the changes presented herein present any new matter and it is submitted that the amendments set forth herein should be approved, entered and made of record of the present application as they aid in describing the invention with the requisite clarity called for in the rules.

Early examination and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____
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Application No.: 09/694,944
Examiner: Not Yet Known

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

At page 1, line 10, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor --In conventional compact cameras, a ranging unit for active AF (automatic focusing) having therein an IRED (infrared ray emitting diode) and a PSD (position sensitive device) is usually used. In these compact cameras, the aperture of their photographing lenses is relatively smaller and the lens barrel unit is relatively shorter than the size of their camera bodies. Therefore, the position where the above-mentioned ranging unit for AF is mounted is hardly limited and this unit can be arranged at an appropriate position on the front of the cameras. It is necessary that a light [flux] beam emitted from the front and a light [flux] beam which the front receives are not blocked off by a photographer's hand or the like at the time of ranging.--.

At page 6, line 22 through page 7, line 3, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor --The electronic camera 10 of the present embodiment is an electronic camera having therein a CCD 8 as an image sensing device. A grip portion 1a is arranged at the left side of a camera body 1. A photographing lens barrel unit (hereinafter referred to as a lens barrel unit), which projects out at the right side and has a large aperture, is arranged at the right side of the camera body 1. [The right side of the lens barrel unit 2 has no projecting portion of the camera body 1.] The camera body 1 has no projecting portion on the right side of the lens barrel unit 2.--

At page 7, line 10 through line 16, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

In the electronic camera 10 of the present embodiment, a release switch button 4, an [operation switch buttons] operations switch button 5 through which operations, such as setup of a mode, are performed, and an LCD display portion 7 are arranged at the upper side of the grip portion 1a side of the camera body 1. An eyepiece unit 6 of a finder is arranged at the upper side of the lens barrel unit 2 side of the camera body 1---

At page 7, line 17 through line 27 and page 8 line 1 through line 4, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--The grip portion 1a has a semicircular convex grip front portion 1f, a finger-[putting] receiving concave portion 1b positioned at the upper portion of the front portion, [a peak portion 1c which is at the right side, that is, at the side of the lens barrel unit 2, of the upper side of the finger-putting concave portion] and a curved, convex peak portion 1c whose right-hand portion extends further to the right and further toward the lens barrel 2, than the right-hand end of the finger-receiving concave portion 1b and the semi-circular convex grip front portion 1f. [1b and] The peak portion 1c functions as a finger restricting portion for restricting upward movement of [the] a finger[,] engaging the finger receiving concave portion 1b. [and a] A grip upper front portion 1d, [over] located above the peak portion 1c, [which invades] is cut into [a cut-off concave portion 1g] the convex surface surrounding button 4 wherein a portion [contacting] thereof adjacent to the front of the camera body 1 is cut [off] away to provide clearance for ranging window 14. The grip upper [front] right cut-away portion 1d is [made] defined by a plane perpendicular to an optical axis

0 of the photographing lens, and the face 1e containing ranging window 14. [making the cut-off] The concave portion 1g[, which] is formed by [cutting off] removing a right-hand portion of the convex surface surrounding button 4, to [make] form the grip upper front portion 1d, which is a plane [which is] substantially [parallel] perpendicular to the optical axis 0.--

At page 10, line 1 through line 8, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--
On the other hand, in the case that the brightness of the subject is low or the like case, a ranging beam is projected from the IRED 12 to the subject through the ranging window 14, and then the PSD 13 receives a resultant reflection beam. The controller calculates the distance to the subject from a position where the reflection beam has been received. The photographing lens 3 is driven up to a focusing position corresponding to the distance from the subject.--

At page 10, line 9 through line 12, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--
The image signals of the subject image obtained by means of the CCD 8 in the above-mentioned lens-focused state are image-processed in the controller, and then the [imaged] image-processed signals are [memorized] stored as photographed-image data in a memory.--

At page 10, line 21 through line 25, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

However, in the case that the lens barrel unit 2 has a large aperture, [the right side of the barrel] camera body 1 has no projecting portion on the right side of the barrel unit 2 [has no projecting portion of the camera body 1]. Thus, the space where the ranging unit 11 and the ranging window 14 are arranged is limited to the upper side of the grip portion 1a.--

At page 10, line 26 through page 11, line 9, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--Thus, in the electronic camera 10 of the present embodiment, the ranging window 14 is fitted to the front portion 1e of the camera body by cutting off the grip upper front portion 1d as described above. Furthermore, the peak portion 1c for restricting the movement of [the] a finger toward the upper end of the grip portion 1a is formed so that [the cover] covering of the ranging window 14 with the fingers of the right hand is prevented when the camera body 1 is held as shown in FIG. 2. Accordingly, it is possible to [detect certainly] reliably detect the distance from the subject by the automatic focusing by means of the ranging unit 11 other than the contrast AF. As a result, photographs can easily be taken.--

At page 11, line 10 through line 15, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--In the electronic camera 10 of the first embodiment, the ranging window 14 is arranged at the cut-[off] away portion in the grip upper front portion 1d over the peak portion 1c. However, if the ranging window 14 is arranged at a portion which is not cut [off] away in the grip upper front portion 1d, the same advantages can be obtained.--

At page 11, line 16 through line 21, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

In the electronic camera 10 of the first embodiment, the cut-[off] away concave portion 1g in the grip upper front portion 1d is [made as a plane] defined by horizontally and vertically aligned planes parallel to the photographing optical axis 0. However, if this cut-[off] away concave portion 1g [is made as a] has a vertically aligned plane which [becomes] forms a slightly [wider toward the subject] greater angle with the optical axis and is somewhat inclined, ranging ability can be improved.--

At page 11, line 24, through page 12, line 5, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the electronic camera of the second embodiment of the present invention. This electronic camera 20 is different from the electronic camera 10 of the first embodiment in [positions where their ranging units are arranged] that its ranging unit is arranged at a different location. In the camera 20, an electronic flash unit is arranged near the ranging unit. Other elements and structures are the same as in the first embodiment, and the same reference numbers are attached to them. Hereinafter, different elements and structures will mainly be described.--

At page 12, line 6 through line 11, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

In the electronic camera 20 of the second embodiment, in the same way, a photographing

lens 3 having a large aperture is [used as] arranged in a lens barrel unit 2. The right side of the camera body 21 has no projecting portions. In a grip portion 21a at the left side of the camera body 21, a finger-[putting] receiving concave portion 21b is [made] provided--

At page 12, line 19 through line 25, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--
A ranging unit 22 and a ranging window (a window for the ranging unit) 25 are arranged at the lower front of the projecting portion 21c. An electronic flash lid 26, which has therein an electronic flash unit 27 and can be opened and closed, [are] is arranged at the upper front of the projecting portion 21c. Moreover, a finder eyepiece unit 6 is fitted to the back face of the projecting unit 21c.--

At page 13, line 5 through line 12, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--
The electronic flash unit 27 which the electronic flash lid 26 has therein comprises an electronic flash window 29, an electronic flash emitting tube 28, and the like. When the electronic flash lid 26 is at a storage position ([close] closed position), the electronic flash unit 27 is stored onto the upper side of the position where the ranging unit 22 is arranged. When the electronic flash lid 26 stands up (opens), the electronic flash unit 27 moves to a popup position at which flash unit 27 can emit light.--

At page 13, line 13 through line 20, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

The lens barrel unit 2 has therein a photographing lens 3 which can be focusing-driven in the same way as the electronic camera 10 of the first embodiment. A CCD 8, which is an image sensing device, and a controller are arranged behind the photographing lens 3 and inside the camera body 21. Data on a subject image, which are [photoelectrically conversed to] electric signals (image signals) photoelectrically converted in the CCD 8, are taken in the controller having therein a contrast detector.--

At page 13, line 21 through line 27, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

In the present electronic camera 20 having the above-mentioned structure, focusing processing is performed in the same way as the electronic camera 10 of the first embodiment. In the electronic camera 20, the electronic flash lid 26 can be opened to [make] bring the electronic flash unit 27 into a popup state. In this way, the electronic flash window 29 is exposed so that a photograph can be taken with [a flare of] flashlight.--

At page 14, line 14 through line 18, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

In the state that the lens barrel unit 2 is held by the left hand and the grip portion 21a of the camera body is held by the right hand when a photograph is taken, the ranging window 25 of the ranging unit 22 is not covered with the fingers so that focusing can be [certainly] reliably performed.--

At page 15, line 1 through line 11, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

An electronic flash lid 49, which [can] is designed to cover the upper side of the projecting portion 41c and can be rotatably moved to be opened and closed, is fitted to the projecting portion 41c. A ranging unit 42 and a ranging window (window for the ranging unit) 45 are arranged over the projecting portion 41c and at the front [inside an area] of an interior area which is covered with the electronic flash lid 49 in a storage state (lid-closed state). An electronic flash unit 46 is integrally held in the electronic flash lid 49 and located at a position where this unit 46 stays away from the ranging unit 42 in the lid-closed state. A finder eyepiece unit 6 is arranged at the back side of the projecting portion 41c.--

At page 15, line 12 through line 20, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

The ranging unit 42 is composed of an IRED 43, which is an infrared ray emitting element (light projecting means) as an active AF detector of a first focusing means, and a PSD 44, which is a position detecting element (light receiving means). The ranging unit 42 [can detect data on the] determines distance from a subject on the basis of [trigometrical] a trigonometric survey. When the electronic flash lid 49 [stands up to be] is at an open position, the ranging window 45 at the front of the ranging unit 42 is exposed so that focusing can be performed.--

At page 16, line 6 through line 12, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--

In the present electronic camera 40 having the above-mentioned structure, in the state that

the electronic flash lid 49 is opened, focusing processing is performed in the same way as the electronic camera 20 of the second embodiment. The electronic flash unit 46 is also in the state that light can be emitted, so that a photograph can be taken with [a flare of] flashlight.--

At page 17, line 27 through page 18, line 8, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--In the present electronic camera 50 having the above-mentioned structure wherein the present variation is used, in the state that the electronic flash 59 is [stands] in the open position shown in Fig. 5, focusing processing by means of either the ranging unit 52 or the contrast detector is selected so that the photographing lens 3 is focusing-driven in the same way as in the case of the electronic camera 20 of the second embodiment. When the electronic flash lid 59 [stands] is in the open position, the electronic flash unit 56 is in a popup state so that a photograph can be taken with [a flare of] flashlight.--

At page 18, line 9 through line 17, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor-- According to the electronic camera 50 wherein the present variation is used, the same effects as the electronic camera 20 of the second embodiment and the electronic camera 40 wherein the first variation is used can be produced. Since the ranging unit 52 and the electronic flash unit 56 are [together] integrated into the electronic flash lid 59, the ranging unit 52 and the electronic flash unit 56 can be made particularly compact. Thus, the present embodiment has a remarkable advantage for making the camera [body] more compact.--

At page 20, line 1 through line 9, please delete entire paragraph and insert therefor--In the present electronic camera 60 having the above-mentioned structure wherein the present variation is used, in the state that the electronic flash lid 69 [stands] is in the open position shown in Fig. 6, focusing processing by means of either the ranging unit 62 or the contrast detector is selected so that the photographing lens 3 is focused in the same way as in the case of the electronic camera 20 of the second embodiment. When the electronic flash lid 69 [stands] is in the open position, the electronic flash unit 66 is in a popup state so that a photograph can be taken with [a flare of] flashlight.--

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

At page 25, claim 7, please delete paragraph and insert therefor-- 7. (Amended) A camera comprising:

a photographing lens barrel arranged at one end [side] of a camera body,
a grip portion arranged at [the other] another end [side] of the camera body and projecting forward from the camera body,
a projecting portion [integrated so as to project] extending upward from [the] an upper face at [the] a side of the one end [portion] of the camera body, at which the photographing lens barrel is arranged,
an electronic flash unit arranged at the projecting portion, and

a window for a ranging unit, arranged near a base portion of the photographing lens
barrel and on [the] a front face of the projecting portion.--